

Introduction

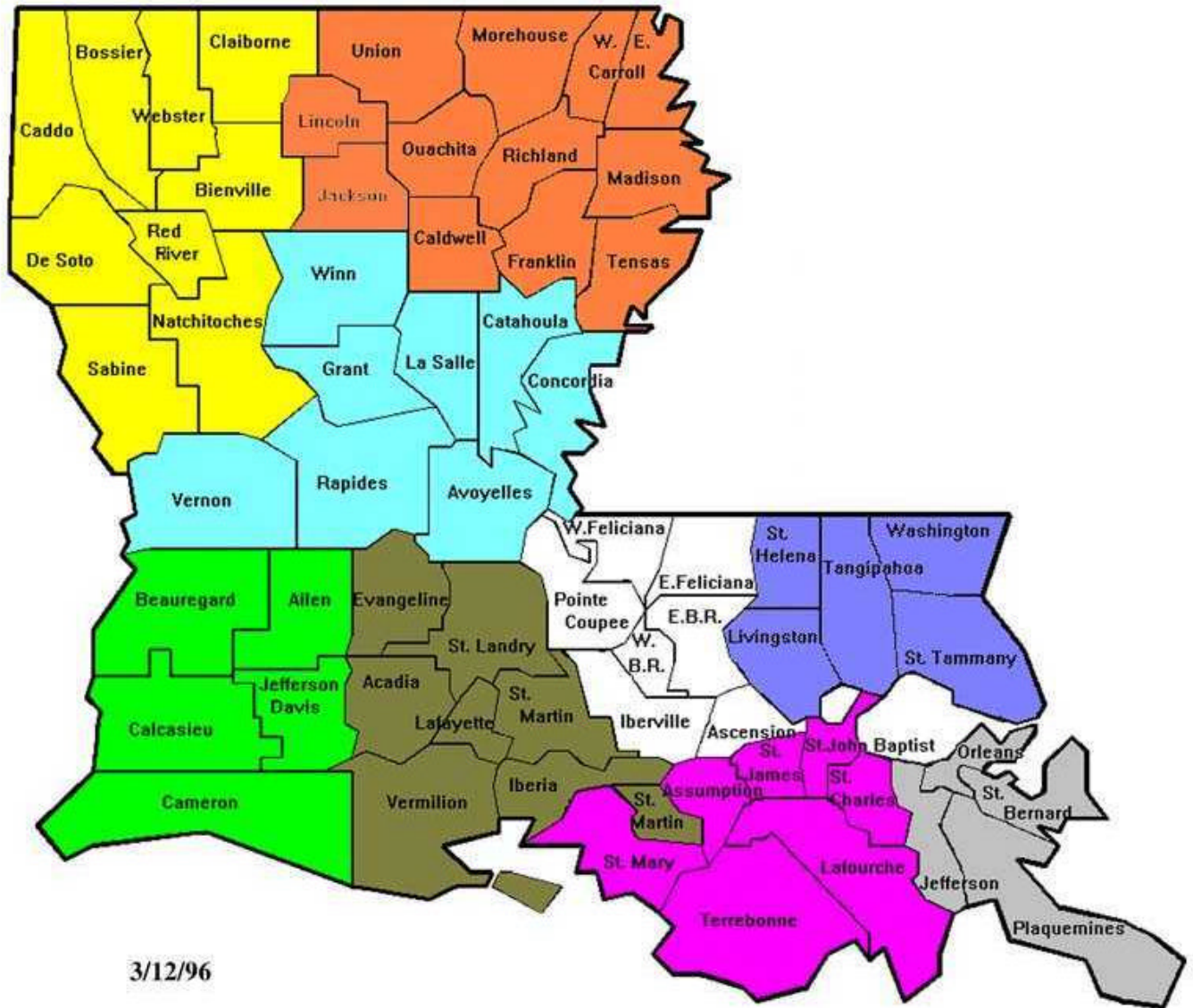
The mission of the State Center for Health Statistics, Louisiana Office of Public Health, is to collect and distribute accurate, understandable information vital to informed decision making on matters concerning individual and community health. The *1997 Louisiana Vital Statistics Overview* has been designed to make the most requested vital statistics data accessible to the public as soon as the information becomes available. Analysis has been kept brief to allow for quick dissemination of the data. For a more in-depth analysis of vital events in Louisiana, please refer to the *1997 Louisiana Vital Statistics Report* to be published later in the year.

The *1997 Louisiana Vital Statistics Overview* describes health status data collected on Louisiana's vital event certificates of Live Birth, Spontaneous Fetal Death (stillbirth), Induced Termination of Pregnancy (induced abortion), Death, Marriage, and Divorce. Data collected on these certificates are used to describe trends and current status in infant and maternal health and in the causes of death most prevalent in race, gender, and age groups. This basic surveillance of vital events is essential in identifying individual and community health concerns and in targeting and evaluating health education and service efforts.

The *Overview* contains seven chapters that describe vital event data and one chapter that presents supplemental information on methodology. The seven data chapters of the *Overview* are "Population," "Live Births," "Fetal Deaths," "Abortions," "Deaths," "Infant Mortality," and "Marriage and Divorce." Each of these chapters contains text, tables, and charts describing state-level data. Most of these chapters also contain tables describing vital events in Louisiana's sixty-four parishes. The final chapter, "Technical Notes," identifies data sources, describes data processing methods and assumptions, and provides a glossary of technical terms.

Table of Contents

Introduction	i
Table of Contents	iii
Map of Louisiana	iv
Summary of Vital Events.....	v
I. Population	1
II. Live Births.....	7
Teen Births	10
Parish Tables.....	11
Unmarried Mothers	19
Parish Tables.....	20
Prenatal Care	29
Parish Tables.....	30
Low Birthweight	39
Parish Tables.....	40
III. Fetal Deaths	47
Parish Tables.....	50
IV. Abortions.....	59
V. Deaths	63
Parish Tables.....	67
VI. Infant Deaths.....	97
Parish Tables.....	100
VII. Marriage and Divorce	117
Parish Tables.....	121
VIII. Technical Notes.....	123



Summary of Vital Events

Population

The total state population in 1997 was 4,351,769.

Live Births

The total number of live births to state residents in 1997 was 65,947. The birth rate was 15.2 live births per 1,000 population.

Teen Births

There were 12,225 live births to teens (women less than 20) in 1997.

Unmarried Mothers

There were 28,900 live births to unmarried women in 1997. This figure represents 43.8% of all 1997 live births.

Prenatal Care

Of the 65,655 live births with known timing of prenatal care in 1997, 81.3% received prenatal care in the first trimester.

Low Birthweight

In 1997, 6,724 (10.2% of total live births with known birthweight) weighed less than 2500 grams.

Fetal Deaths

In 1997, 528 fetal deaths were reported.

Abortions

There were 11,739 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in 1997.

Deaths

In 1997, 39,917 Louisiana residents died. Louisiana's crude death rate was 917.3 per 100,000 population.

Infant Deaths

In 1997, 629 infants under the age of one died. The infant mortality rate for Louisiana was 9.5 per 1,000 live births.

Marriage and Divorce

In 1997, 39,662 marriages occurred in Louisiana. The marriage rate was 9.1 marriages per 1,000 population. There were 13,836 divorces reported from the 46 of the state's parishes that reported.

